frauds being perpetrated elsewhere, banks have been advised to report frauds within 21 days of their occurrence to RBI. Large value frauds involving Rs. 1 crore and above are required to be reported within a week of such fraud coming to the notice of the bank. To streamline and facilitate quick reporting and follow up of frauds, RBI has introduced a computerized 'Frauds Reporting and Monitoring System' linking all banks with RBI.

(c) The compliance with the time schedule for submission of reports on frauds by banks is monitored by RBI. Generally all the banks are adhering to the reporting systems and the guidelines issued from time to time.

Increase in tax payers

†2652. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of tax payers in the country has increased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number thereof during the last three years;

(c) the estimated number of tax payers during the current year;

(d) whether it is also a fact that outstanding tax amount against these tax payers is increasing constantly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during last three years and the estimated outstanding amount of tax for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of assessees for the last three years is as under:

Financial year ending	Number of assessees (in Crores)
31st March, 2004	3.02
31st March, 2005	3.08
31st March, 2006	3.15

(c) According to statistics maintained by Income Tax Department, the number of Income-tax assessees as on 30th June, 2006 is 2.99 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) The amount of income tax outstanding at the end of last three financial years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Amount of Income Tax outstanding
2005-06	1,16,766
2004-05	98,612
2003-04	87,885

It is not feasible to estimate the amount of Income-tax that shall remain outstanding at the end of the current financial year as the same could depend on several factors including the nature of the appellate orders, the success of the efforts for recovery, the nature and quantum of tax-demand raised during the current year, etc.

Change of mutilated currency notes

2653. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many of the nationalized banks do not change the mutilated currency notes under the Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1975 compelling people to go to touts in the field paying a commission;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent reports published in the press in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Nationalised Banks are under instructions to provide the facility of exchange of soiled bank notes at all branches and facility of exchange of mutilated bank notes at designated branches under Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1975. Whenever any specific complaint is received by Reserve Bank, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned bank (including Nationalised Banks) for resolution.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the news report regarding non-provision of exchange facilities by bank branches located on Parliament Street, New Delhi. New Delhi office of the Reserve Bank of India deputed its officers on incognito visits to 11 branches of